

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Isaiah 53

God's Eternal Plan to Redeem Mankind

Isaiah Considers the Hard Life of Christ (53:1-4):

"Who hath believed our message? And to whom hath the arm of Jehovah been revealed?" (Isaiah 53:1).

The prophet asks a question regarding the message. **The message:** Zion suffered due to her sins at the hands of Babylon and the Christ will suffer for the sins of man at the hands of the Romans. God redeemed Zion out of Babylonian bondage and God will redeem Zion out of the bondage of sin through the suffering servant.

The *"arm of Jehovah"* has revealed this to the entire world through the prophets, apostles, and gospel message. Though the work of Jehovah was so obvious many rejected the message in disbelief. John quotes from this passage to show man's hard hearted disposition of disbelief at John 12:37-38. The apostle Paul also quoted from this verse at Romans 10:16 to prove that though many prophets and preachers were sent with the message of redemption many would not believe.

"2 For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2).

The servant grew up before Jehovah as a *"tender plant"* out of dry ground. The conditions to his well being were not conducive to a healthy life. The wickedness of man was great yet he remained a *"tender plant"* in that he would never be moved by his divine and eternal purpose to redeem man from their sins.

There was nothing about the servant (Christ) that was attractive or charming from the world's perspective. Jesus was a man with a mission. He was nothing that the world would had viewed as successful or interesting. He was not rich, didn't have interesting things to say regarding world success, he was not a military leader or politician. Jesus didn't have a fascinating Job that would wow people. Jesus was a lowly carpenter and there was not much, from the world's perspective, to desire in him. His objective; however, was not of this world but rather eternal (see John 18:36). Those interested in eternity were interested in Jesus. Those more interested in the things of this world were not interested in Jesus.

"3 He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3).

The Christ gained early popularity as he performed amazing miracles; however, this popularity would be short lived (see Luke 18:31-33). There was primarily four reasons Jesus was despised and rejected of men:

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our worship service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Updated Prisoner Correspondences have been posted in the back room across from our picture board. Be sure to keep up with what is going on with Manuel Ruiz and others we study with. You will be impressed with the answers these men give on these lessons. They have all grown in the Lord much.

Our Bible Correspondence course has been overhauled and is now easier to read and study. Lets all get excited about these studies and get our friends and neighbors to take the course. If you would like some copies of the first lesson let John know.

Shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
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First, Jesus did not meet the **expectations** of a military or political leader that would remove Zion out of Roman control. Matthew writes, *"And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elijah must first come? And he answered and said, Elijah indeed cometh, and shall restore all things: but I say unto you, that Elijah is come already, and they knew him not, but did unto him whatsoever they would. Even so shall the Son of man also suffer of them. Then understood the disciples that he spake unto them of John the Baptist"* (Matthew 17:10-13). Jesus would suffer at the hands of wicked men on the cross for the same reason John suffered and was killed. It would be because, *"they knew him not."* Many would see and hear yet not really see and hear (see Matthew 13:10-15). They did not know Jesus in the sense that they did not understand his objective of redeeming man from the bondage of sin (i.e., his spiritual work and objectives). Jesus offered absolutely nothing to the worldly minded individual.

Secondly, Jesus was rejected because of the **damaging work and teaching of the scribes, Pharisees, chief priests and elders** of the people (see Matthew 16:5ff; 27:1-2). After enough people slander and malign a good name one is ruined.

Thirdly, Jesus was despised and rejected of men because he **exposed the sinful deeds of man** as being unacceptable to God (see John 15:18-19, 24). Most people do not want to hear that they are wrong about anything. The best way to make an enemy out of a pride filled worldly minded man is to tell him his errors. Solomon speaks of this in the Proverbs.

Fourthly, Jesus would be despised and rejected because of a **lack of understanding** on the part of many. People would not grasp the fact that he was divinely appointed before the world was created to die on a cross for man's sins rather than man having to pay the immediate price for their wickedness. A great act of love toward mankind turned out to be one that was despised and rejected because of a lack of understanding. A lack of understanding will forever ruin many men's souls for all eternity (Matthew 22:29; Acts 3:17-19; 17:23, 30). Those who do not *"esteem"* (value and have high regard for) Jesus will forever be lost in sin. Jehovah, through Isaiah and other prophets, is painting a picture in the minds of men so that we may all trust, believe, and put our confidence in him.

"4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" (Isaiah 53:4).

The love and compassion of Christ is identified here. Jesus came into the world and removed man's sickness and diseases yet men continued to have disregard for him (see Matthew 8:14-17). The greatest act of love was misinterpreted and or misunderstood. Christ's real life hit the Jews like a curve ball hits a baseball player who was expecting a fast ball. They were locked up, gazed at the Lord, and did nothing but watch and thereby they struck out in life.

Though Isaiah foretold of this event hundreds of years before Christ came into the world to heal men of their sickness and diseases man refused to grasp the prophecy. While Christ *"bore our griefs and sorrows"* yet *"we"* considered him to be suffering for his own wrongs. Again, the problem is a lack of knowledge and understanding on the part of mankind even though the prophets clearly outlined Christ life and objective. We stand in fearful awe at the masses of humanity today who refuse to open their Bibles and truly study the word of God and thereby remain in a cloud of uncertainty in relationship to Christ and his suffering on the cross (Continued Next Week - JCR).

The Holy Spirit

Introduction:

Our Bibles comprise revelation from the mind of God (1 Timothy 3:16-17). None of us would know anything about the mind of God if it were not divinely revealed to us (see 1 Corinthians 12:3). The gospel message of truth has been completely delivered and is to be honored as divinely given (see Jude 3). The apostle Paul refers to the gospel of Jesus Christ as "sound" doctrine at 1 Timothy 1:10. The word "sound" (Greek hugiaino) means "To be sound, healthy or in health, to be sound of mind" (Liddell and Scott page 827). Thayer's Greek English Lexicon define the word as, "to be sound, to be well, to be in good health: **metaphorically** the phrase is used of one whose Christian opinions are free from any admixture of error (Titus. 1:13), the sound i.e. true and incorrupt doctrine (1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1)" (Thayer 634). This sound doctrine is to be guarded from the attempts of men to pervert it (see Galatians 1:6-8; 2 John 9-11; Jude 3).

When studying the subject of the Holy Spirit we must keep truth before our minds. The disciple of Christ must rid the mind of the temptation to take preconceived ideas about any Bible subject and apply those thoughts to truth. The consequence of not looking to the inspired word of truth to learn about the Holy Spirit will result in erring conclusions. Let us examine what the Bible has to say about the Holy Spirit.

- I. Identity of the Holy Spirit**
- II. Work of the Holy Spirit**
- III. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**
- IV. Baptism of the Holy Spirit**
- V. "Given" the Holy Spirit**
- VI. Gift of the Holy Spirit**

Conclusion:

Though men have drawn conclusions about the Holy Spirit separate from divine revelation the truth remains truth. The word of God has not changed (see Psalms 111:9; Zechariah 1:5-6; Malachi 3:6; Acts 26:14; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 Peter 1:24-25). The Holy Spirit is a person within the godhead that has a specific work. When the work of the Holy Spirit is accomplished people are baptized for the forgiveness of their sins and added to the Lord's church.

